



September 2025

The Bellnote

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 295-3290 - New(er again) Church Number
Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

Minister

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Message from the Minister

Dear UUCEL Members and Friends,

Over the last couple of years, we've been blessed with an extraordinary and precious gift: growth. And not just growth in numbers—but in the kinds of people who now call UUCEL home. Some of that growth has come in the form of small feet, curious eyes, laughter, wiggles, and the occasional joyful outburst (or not-so-joyful one). This is something we have hoped and prayed for over the years: that our beloved community would be vibrant, multi-generational, and full of life.

I know that for some of us—especially those who have long known our services as quieter, more contemplative spaces—this change can feel like an adjustment. And I understand that. For some, worship has been a time to find stillness and focus without interruption - a quiet and contemplative space. It can feel like “adult time.” But in our tradition, we believe worship is for all ages—and that includes the voices and movements of our youngest members. When we say we are a welcoming congregation, that welcome is not just for those who are quiet, still, and fully grown. It is for everyone—of every age, stage, and ability.

Yes, children can sometimes be wiggly. They may whisper to a parent, drop a crayon, or need to be reminded about indoor voices. But they are not interruptions to our worship—they are a part of it. Their presence means that the good news of our faith is still being passed on to another generation. Their giggles, their curiosity, even their occasional squirming, are signs that we are alive as a community.

So I invite you—no, I encourage you—to welcome our children wholeheartedly. I invite you to see these sounds not as distractions, but as holy reminders that our faith is alive and growing. Smile when you see them. Learn their names. Let them know that this is their church home too. Because if we want them to grow into the kind of adults who will carry this faith forward, they must first feel that they belong here, just as they are. In a world that can be so unwelcoming to families, especially in public spaces, I want our congregation to be a place where parents can exhale, knowing their children are not only tolerated but cherished.

Yes, it will sometimes mean a little extra noise, and yes, it may mean moments when we have to re-focus our attention. But what we gain is immeasurable: a community that reflects the fullness of life, that welcomes everyone exactly as they are, and that models to the youngest among us that they are beloved here.

Notes from the Board

The board is required to meet ten times a year. August was a month there was no meeting. The Strategic Planning session is scheduled for September 6 and the next board meeting is September 8 at 5:30pm at the church.

Ann

**Submitted by: Ann Green
Board President**

Rev. Dan's Schedule for September

7 Dan at UUCEL in person
8-9 UUCEL virtual
10- Off
11-12 UUCEL virtual
13 - Off
14 - Joint service
15-16 Elkhart in person
17-Off
18-19 Elkhart in person
20-Off
21- Elkhart in person
22-23 - Elkhart Virtual
24 - Off
25-26- Elkhart Virtual
27-28 Off
29-30-UUCEL in person

Social Hour Team Schedule

The second half of the year listing has been posted on the Kitchen's corkboard. A reminder; if your team is running low or out of a product/supply item(s) that is normally at church, please write it down on the pad of paper on the frig, so the UU buyers: Joan Bernstein, Vicki or Kathy Haynes can get it. Also, a friendly reminder that only drinks can be left over till the following week in the frig. YES, we have church mice and they like to eat too! So please take everything home. If you would like to join a team contact Kathy. Thank You.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Notes from Religious Ed

Volunteers Update

We have at least one opening for a teacher assistant volunteer, which means a commitment of nine Sundays, scattered throughout the school year. UUCEL wants to continue to be an inviting church for families to bring their kids. So please consider answering this call!

UUCEL is proud to offer nursery care for babies and preschool children every Sunday. We have a roster of adult volunteers who kindly give one Sunday a month to make this happen (really, it's only about 45 minutes per month!). Thank you are spots our now filled.

Submitted by: RE Committee

Update on Committees

Nathan Close has joined Elissa Alden, Lynn Hightower, Gratia Karmes, and Tom Pepper on the Committee on Ministry. This committee exists to strengthen the quality of ministry within the congregation and supports communication between the minister and the congregation.

Members of the newly reconvened Nominating Committee are Peg Beison, Parker Brue, Kathy Haynes, and Tiffany Reese. This committee recruits and receives nominations for the board and for potential candidates for leadership in the congregation. Please congratulate these new members for their leadership.

Submitted by: Ann Green

NEW Information for Social Hour Host

Those on the team of the **1st Sunday of Each Month** - Please READ the NOTE that has been added to the paper copy on the corkboard in the KITCHEN. - With NEW directions YOU need to KNOW.

Thank you From the Board

Rev. Dan's Column Continued

I hope we can all remember that the presence of children is a sign that our congregation has a future. Every giggle, every question whispered a little too loudly, is a sign that the values we hold dear are being passed to a new generation. So, when you hear a child in worship, I invite you to hear it as a blessing—a sign of growth, vitality, and hope. And if you ever feel your focus drifting during a service because of new sounds, perhaps offer a silent prayer of gratitude that our sanctuary is still a place where the next generation of Unitarian Universalists can learn, grow, and belong.

I strongly believe that if we truly believe our Principles and our Values, then we need to welcome children not just in theory, but in practice—even when it's not perfectly comfortable for us. Because comfort is not the goal of church. Connection is. Belonging is. Love is. Let us remember that we are all here—young and old alike—because we long for a place where we can be fully ourselves and wholly loved. May we be that place for each other. May we be that place for them. May it be so.

With Love abundant,

Rev. Dan Miyake



Watch on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LibertyUU>

Reminder to all Social Hour Teams

When done with the regular social hour duties, please make sure the following are done:

- ~Open all registers in social hall
- ~Close the doors that go upstairs to sanctuary

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting



Spotlight on New Members

Ashley Schneider

Ashley Schneider has been a member for a long time but you may have known her once as Ashley McDearmon, young daughter of member Eric Dearmon. And happily, she's back, this time with her own two children – Amelia (6) and Sammy (4). In fact, she says it was her kids who brought her back to the church.

She has fond memories of Religious Education and particularly her teachers Cecily Savick and Teresa Spencer. This was because of her dad. He was, she recalls, a good dad who was a foundation of her childhood, He wanted her to have a diverse religious, open-minded and social experience so this church and RE were especially important to him.

Now she wants her kids to have the same experience. She says, "this is such a grounded community, a warm and comfortable and safe space to be without judgement." Ashley's father died a couple of years ago and she says the church is helping her heal from his passing. Being here is part of his legacy.

Ashley graduated from Napoleon High School and has a degree from Michigan State in Human Development and Family Studies. She has worked for the Alzheimer's Association and the Brooklyn Living Center and continues to work in her chosen field. What matters most to her right now is the church community for which she is really thankful. It is a beacon of light, she says, now and throughout her childhood. There is love for everybody in and she has gratitude and joy to be here.

Submitted by: Ann Green

Meetings and Events for UUCEL

Ladies' Lunch

The Ladies Lunch will be meeting on Thursday September 11, at the Bone Island Grille in Vandercook at 2:00 /noon, if you are not on Joan's list and want to come, please call her by Wednesday morning. Please see Joan's contact information on the top of the Supplement Page.

Submitted by: Joan Bernstein

Attention friends of our dear member

Joyce Kelley

Please come to a Memorial/Celebration of Life for Joyce's son, Chip Stutler on Saturday, September 27.

It will be held at Arbor Manor, located at 151 2nd Street, Spring Arbor. The service will begin at 3:00 in the Sun Room at the facility.

For further information please feel free to contact Elissa Alden. **Submitted by: Elissa Alden**

UU Younger

The UU Younger group (known as YUUMM) has started a recurring meetings the first Sunday of every month at 12:30 pm in the school house.

It will include snacks, board games and conversation. **Submitted by: Scott Reese**

Quarterly Donations

The Social Mission Designee for the 1st quarter is Jackson Personal Care Ministry – It is a cooperative mission of 14 area churches. That offers a weekly pantry of personal care and cleaning products to anyone residing in Jackson County. Please, give by using the donate button on our website or by contributing with a check with Jackson Personal Care Ministry in the memo.

Submitted by: Gretchen Marshall

4 Announcements

from Rev. Dan

Sunday, September 14 is our annual Ingathering and Water Communion service. This will be a joint intergenerational service with the Elkhart congregation. Rev. Dan will be speaking from Elkhart, and UUCEL will be Zooming into the service. Look for the Zoom link in the Wednesday Chimes. Be sure to bring a small amount of water from a source meaningful to you. PLEASE NOTE: The service will begin at 10:30 rather than 11:00!

Rev. Dan will be offering Soul Matters Small Groups again this year. These intimate groups explore various spiritual themes throughout the year and reflect and share with each other on what they've learned and experienced. Last year, the group was small, but it was very enjoyable for everyone. If you would like to participate this year, please contact Rev. Dan as soon as you are able so that groups can start meeting later this month.

Rev. Dan will also be hosting regular small group discussions of lunch or coffee. These discussions will not be structured or require outside work. Just come and chat and connect. The first gathering will be Tuesday September 9 at 12:30 at the old Luceros near Brooklyn. An RSVP to Rev. Dan is appreciated. Dates and times of future gatherings will be announced soon. Please check the Wednesday Chimes and/or the Bellnote for updates!

This September, Rev. Dan will lead a six-session adult RE class called Long Strange Trip. This is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each session will include watching a 45 minute to an hour video, followed by discussion. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our UU history and understand more about what makes us UUs. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings via Zoom and will be available to both UUCEL and UUFE. Exact dates will be determined later. Please email Rev. Dan as soon as you are able if you wish to participate.

Submitted by: Rev. Dan

LOST & FOUND ----- Is this YOURS

- Sweater/Jacket - Light Gray & White w/ Zipper - Size X-L
- Shawl, Dark Blue, Long Rectangle w/ Fringe and Buttons by: harve benard
- Scarf - Very Long, Tan Knitted w/ 4 rows of Cable by: Isotoner
- Cap/Hat - White w/ Intermobile Racing & N norman
- Sunglasses - overx.com, Cocoon, Teal & Black

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Please welcome our newest
member who joined our
church on August 10
Nathan Close
With Great Rejoicing !

Build a Community of Hope at the 17th UU Women's Retreat this September

Women of all Michigan UU Congregations are invited by the Ann Arbor congregation to attend their 17th WomUUn's Retreat, Sept. 26-28, at YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI. Last year, over 70 women from 7 congregations attended. --- The theme for this year's retreat is Community of Hope. The retreat begins Friday evening with a pot-luck Community Café, book and jewelry exchanges, sale of woman-made products, Welcoming Session and a bonfire with storytelling Saturday will be packed with small group gatherings; social justice and heart-healing workshops, good food; fun craft workshops; outdoor activities such as zip lining, archery and high ropes course, and plenty of joyful singing. The retreat wraps up Sunday morning with the closing Community Celebration. **Registration materials are available at: <https://uuaa.org/womuuns-community/>. Women should register and pay by June 30 to receive early bird pricing.**

**Go now and live your religion.
Its truth reflect in all you do.
Go, may love's presence ever guide you.
Live the good life the whole day through.**

Jackson Personal Care Ministry

JPCM is a cooperative mission of 14 area churches. We offer a weekly pantry of personal care and cleaning products to anyone residing in Jackson County. Our team, (First Congregational, St. John's UCC, and UUCEL) works the first Thursday of the month, and that would be September 4th. Because we are serving more people, the number of volunteers needed has grown from 3-4. Please let me know if you can help. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 4:30 pm. JPCM is held at: First Baptist Church 201 S. Jackson St., Jackson 49201, Thursday 5:00- 6:30 pm. It's an excellent way to meet the community and give back! If you'd like to work or have any questions. Nena's contact info is on the top of the Supplement Page. **Submitted by: Nena Obits**

2025 WomUUn's Retreat Brochure:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YiEt8oLJ-AH69dLyDdAGPAFGuEm95whK4dcuzztJGKU/edit?tab=t.0> **Online registration:**

<https://forms.gle/jkgW6mF5kNUggiYu5>

2024 Photo book : <https://www.mixbook.com/photo-books/interests/>

[blankcanvas34648109?vk=dFGt1EGeqcWkNvYF9kKd](https://www.mixbook.com/photo-books/interests/blankcanvas34648109?vk=dFGt1EGeqcWkNvYF9kKd)

Questions? Email womuunsretreat@uuaa.org.

Submitted by: Judi Lintott jlintott@comcast.net



September 's UUCEL Calendar

All Events are at the church Unless Otherwise Noted

4 Thurs	Personal Care Ministry @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
7 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 11:00 am
7 Sunday	YUUMM Meeting ~ School House ~ 12:30 pm
8 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
8 Mon	Board Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
9 Tue	Lunch w/Rev. Dan at 12:30 at the old Luceros near Brooklyn
11 Thurs	Ladies Lunch @ Bone Island Grille ~ 12:00 am
14 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 10:30 am ~ Voom
21 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Jim Benedict ~ 11:00 am
22 Mon	The Bellnote Newsletter, Submissions Due
22 Mon	Church Cleaning ~ by: Vicki Haynes
28 Sunday	~~ Service ~ Led by: Darrin Palmer~ 11:00 am

Weekly Volunteer Schedule

Sunday, Sept 7 ~~ Greeter, Alyce O ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
~~ Social Hour Host, Liz W & Team 6
~~ Technology Streaming, Tom P ~~ Worship Associate, Laurie C
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Cecily S ~~ Nursery w/ Nena O & Sue R

Sunday, Setp 14 ~~ Greeter, Lori A ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
~~ Social Hour Host, Alyce O & Team 7
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate,
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Intergenerational ~~ Nursery w/ Alyce O & Alice P

Sunday, Sept 21 ~~ Greeter, Joan B ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
~~ Social Hour Host, Deb H & Team 1
~~ Technology Streaming, Rob G ~~ Worship Associate, Wendy S
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Cecily S ~~ Nursery w/ Kathy H & Ashley S

Sunday, Sept 28 ~~ Greeter, Jackie J ~~ Usher, Paul J & Helper Needed
~~ Social Hour Host, Kathy H & Team 2
~~ Technology Streaming, Mike B ~~ Worship Associate, Alice P
~~ R.E. K-5, Classes w/ Nancy S & Cecily S ~~ Nursery w/ Donna H & Nicole B

~~ Celebrating Over 167 Years of Liberal Religion ~~
All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am

Sept 7 - “Belonging Beyond These Walls”

- Led by: Rev. Dan

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Belonging is not just something that happens inside these walls; it is something we carry outward. Today we explore how our congregation can build belonging not only for ourselves, but for all people longing for a place of welcome.

Sept 14 - “Water Communion and Ingathering” Zoom with Joint & Intergenerational

- Led by: Rev. Dan ~ 10:30 am

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

This is our annual Ingathering and Water Communion service to kick off the new church year! This year, Rev. Dan will be physically in Elkhart. UUCEL will participate on Zoom (link to appear in the Wednesday Chimes prior to the service). Please remember to bring water from your summer travels or activities for our Water Communion.

Important note: This service will begin at 10:30, not 11:00!

Sept 21 - “What is Love?”

- Led by: Jim Benedict

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

Sept 28 - “International Day of the Deaf”

- Led by: Darrin Palmer

Masks are optional. In person or live on Facebook.

PRAISE-CELEBRATE-HOORAY: Religion in the Deaf Community. Darrin will be discussing the prominence of religious worship in the Deaf community, and exploring the similarity and differences to religious worship in the hearing world.



OUR 7 PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

- ~ The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- ~ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ~ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- ~ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ~ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- ~ The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- ~ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

From The Editors:

“The Bellnote” is a monthly publication of UUCEL. If this is your 1st copy of the church’s newsletter, welcome. Our church year runs from July 1st-June 30th. The church board asks those that receive the paper version of the newsletter pay a \$18.00 per year subscription fee. New visitors will get a few months free, after that a subscription fee will be asked for, or change to an on-line version that is free of charge.

For the October issue, the information is needed by: Monday, September 22 ~~ send submissions to: uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com or in writing to Kathy or Vicki, thank you. We want to thank Rev. Dan Miyake, Ann Green, Nancy Smith, Gretchen Marshall, Darrin Palmer, Deb Hartsuff, Nena Obits, Scott Reese, Vicki Haynes, Tech Comm., and Worship Comm., for their news items this month.

A Quick Look of What's Inside - Full Info on Page 7

Sept 7 - Rev. Dan – “Belonging Beyond These Walls”

Sept 14 - Rev. Dan – Zoom Joint Intergen “Water Communion & Ingathering” – 10:30, not 11:00

Sept 21 - Jim Benedict – “What is Love?”

Sept 28 - Darrin Palmer – “International Day of the Deaf”

Payment due of \$18.00 for The Bellnote Newsletter paper copy

A Reminder to all, that it's that time of year again folks. There are now 23 members & friends who receive the papers copy of The Bellnote. Plus the two Rev's on our list that receive a copy for free. Eleven (11) have paid & Two (2) have moved to on-line leaving 10 to hear from soon. The editors can collect the money per person for the year's expenses of printing and postage. Please give the \$'s to Kathy Haynes or mail to her, in a check made out to UUCEL & write paper copy on the memo line. See the Supplement page for her contact info. The money will get marked paid & passed on to the church treasurer. If you want to change over to the on-line version there is no charge, just send a message to uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com **Thank you from the editors Kathy & Vicki Haynes**

Church's Website ~ <http://www.libertyuu.org>

Church's E-Mail Address ~ uuliberty@gmail.com

Wednesday's Chimes ~ WednesdayChimes@gmail.com

Church's Facebook Page ~ <http://www.facebook.com/libertyuu>

The Bellnote's E-Mail Address ~ UUCEL_Bellnote@yahoo.com

Bellnote Newsletter ~ <https://libertyuu.org/category-newsletter/newsletter>



Where People Care About Each Other And Care About The World.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CLARLAKE, MI 49234

2231 JEFFERSON ROAD

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY

